

News Release

Release No. <u>CESWF-PA-02-053</u> Contact: <u>Ron Ruffennach</u>

For Release: Immediate 7 Aug 02 Phone: (817) 886-1517

Army Corps of Engineers seeks public comment on environmental document for land exchange

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is accepting comments on the Environmental Assessment for a proposed land exchange between Fort Hood and the City of Copperas Cove.

Copperas Cove has expressed interest in acquiring land for potential expansion/development. The city does not own land suited for industrial use adjacent to U.S. 190 while the U.S. Government owns such property, which is part of Fort Hood.

The Army proposes to exchange lands adjacent to Fort Hood located near Copperas Cove with the city. The Fort Hood property to be exchanged is approximately 109 acres of vacant land next to the western edge of the city. The Copperas Cove property to be exchanged is approximately 504 acres of vacant land about 14 miles northwest of the city. The acreage of properties to be exchanged has been adjusted to represent equivalent market value.

The Corps' Environmental Assessment (EA) describes the environmental aspects of the proposed land exchange and alternative plans, and includes the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The public may submit written comments on the EA and Draft FONSI through Aug. 23, 2002, by mailing them to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District ATTN: Mark Doles, CESWF-PER-EE P.O. Box 17300 Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300.

Copies of the EA and Draft FONSI are available at the Corps' Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division at 819 Taylor Street in Fort Worth. Copies may also be requested in writing at the above address or by telephone at (817) 886-1693.